REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment claims 1-7 and 13-15 are pending in the application. Claims 8-12 have been deleted. Claims 1-7 have been amended in accordance with the requirements of U.S. patent practice. New claims 13-15 add no new matter, as these claims contain subject matter deleted from the amended claims. Applicants respectfully request entry of the preliminary amendment.

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDMENTS

Please make the following amendments to the applications:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

After the title, please insert --This application is a National Phase Application of Patent Application **PCT/EP00/06107** filed on 30 June 2000--

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.(Amended) A[The use of a] copolymer (A) prepar[abl]ed by free-radical polymerization of

a) at least one olefinically unsaturated monomer and

b) at least one olefinically unsaturated monomer different than the- olefinically unsaturated monomer (a) and of the general formula I

$$R^1\ R^2C{=}CR^3R^4 \quad (I),$$

in which the radicals R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 each independently of one another are hydrogen atoms or substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylcycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, cycloalkylaryl, arylalkyl or arylcycloalkyl radicals, with the proviso that at least two of the variables R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are substituted or unsubstituted aryl, arylalkyl or arylcycloalkyl radicals[, especially substituted or unsubstituted aryl radicals; in an aqueous medium, in a clearcoat material used to produce clearcoats KL and multicoat color and/or effect coating systems ML].

2.(Amended) A clearcoat material comprising

(A) a[s] binder[, or one of the binders,]comprising at least one copolymer prepar[able]ed by free-radical polymerization of

a) at least one olefinically unsaturated monomer and

b) at least one olefinically unsaturated monomer different than the olefinically unsaturated monomer (a) and of the general formula I

$$R^1R^2C{=}CR^3R^4 \quad (I),$$

in which the radicals R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 each independently of one another are hydrogen atoms or substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylcycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, cycloalkylaryl, arylalkyl or arylcycloalkyl radicals, with the proviso that at least two of the variables R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are substituted or unsubstituted aryl, arylalkyl or arylcycloalkyl radicals, [especially substituted or unsubstituted aryl radicals,]in an aqueous medium;
and
(B) at least one crosslinking agent containing at least two functional groups (bfg) which are able to undergo thermal crosslinking reactions[with complementary functional groups (afg) in the constituent (A)].

3.(Amended) The copolymer of claim 1, [use as claimed in claim 1 or clearcoat material as claimed in claim 2,]wherein the copolymer (A) is obtain[abl]ed by
(i) subjecting at least one monomer (a) and at least one monomer (b) to free-radical polymerization in an aqueous medium to provide a reaction product, and then
(ii) reacting the resultant reaction product with at least one further monomer (a) under.free- radical conditions.

4.(Amended) The [use as claimed in claim or 3 or clearcoat material as claimed in claim 2 or 3]copolymer of claim 1, wherein the aryl radicals R^1, R^2, R^3 and/or R^4 of the compound (b) comprise phenyl or naphthyl radicals[, especially phenyl radicals].

5.(Amended) The [use as claimed in any of claims 1, 3 and 4 or clearcoat as claimed in any of claims 2 to 4]copolymer of claim 4, wherein the substituents in radicals R^1, R^2 , R^3 and/or R^4 of the compound (b) are electron- donating or electron-withdrawing atoms or organic radicals[, especially halogen atoms, nitrile, nitro, partially or fully halogenated alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylcycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, cycloalkylaryl, arylalkyl and arylcycloalkyl radicals; aryloxy, alkyloxy and cycloalkyloxy radicals; arylthio, alkylthio and cycloalkylthio radicals; hydroxyl groups and/or primary, secondary and/or tertiary amino groups].

6. (Amended) The [use as claimed in any of claims 1 and 3 to 5 or clearcoat material as claimed in any of claims 2 to 5]copolymer of claim 1, wherein monomers (a) comprise at least one monomer selected from the group of

al) (meth)acrylic esters which are essentially free from acid groups;

a2) monomers which carry per molecule at least one hydroxyl group, amino group, alkoxymethylamino group or imino group and are essentially free from acid groups;

a3) monomers which carry per molecule at least one acid group which can be converted to the corresponding acid anion group;

a4) vinyl esters of alpha-branched monocarboxylic acids having 5 to 18 carbon atoms in the molecule;

a5) reaction products of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid with the glycidyl ester of an alpha-branched monocarboxylic acid having 5 to 18 carbon atoms per molecule;

a6) cyclic and/or acyclic olefins; a7) (meth)acrylamides;

a8) monomers containing epoxide groups;

a9) vinylaromatic hydrocarbons;

al0) nitrites;

all) vinyl compounds, [especially vinyl halides and/or vinylidene dihalides, N-vinyl- pyrrolidone, vinyl ethers and/or vinyl esters];

al2) allyl compounds[, especially allyl ethers and allyl esters];

al3) polysiloxane macromonomers having a number- average molecular weight Mn of from 1000 to 40,000 and having on average from 0.5 to 2.5 ethylenically unsaturated double bonds per molecule; and/or

al4) acryloxysilane-containing vinyl monomers, prepar[able]ed by reacting hydroxyl-functional silanes with epichlorohydrin and then reacting the reaction product with (meth)acrylic acid and/or hydroxyalkyl and/or hydroxycycloalkyl esters of (meth)acrylic acid (monomers a2), and mixtures thereof.

7. (Amended) The [use as claimed in any of claims 1 and 3 to 6 or clearcoat material as claimed in any of claims 2 to 6]clearcoat material of claim 2, wherein the clearcoat material further comprises at least one of the following constituents:

A) at least one binder different than the copolymer (A) and containing at least one functional group (afg) which is able to undergo thermal crosslinking reactions with complementary functional groups (bfg) in the crosslinking agent (B)

C) at least one constituent which is crosslinkable with actinic radiation,

D) at least one photoinitiator,

E) at least one thermal crosslinking initiator,

F) at least one reactive diluent curable thermally and/or with actinic radiation,

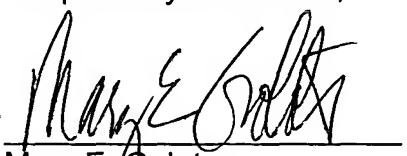
G) at least one coatings additive, and/or H) at least one organic solvent.

Please delete claims 8-12.

13. (New) The copolymer of claim 4, wherein the aryl radicals R^1, R^2, R^3 and/or R^4 of the compound (b) comprise phenyl radicals.

14.(New) The copolymer of claim 5, wherein one or more of the substituents in radicals R^1, R^2 , R^3 and/or R^4 of the compound (b) comprise at least one group selected from halogen atoms, nitrile, nitro, partially or fully halogenated alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkylcycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, cycloalkylaryl, arylalkyl and arylcycloalkyl radicals; aryloxy, alkyloxy and cycloalkyloxy radicals; arylthio, alkylthio and cycloalkylthio radicals; hydroxyl groups and/or primary, secondary and/or tertiary amino groups, and mixtures thereof.

Respectfully Submitted,



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